** MEDIA ADVISORY **

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and Harris County Public Library Host George & Barbara Bush Family Place Ribbon Cutting

*Ribbon cutting with special guest Neil Bush Tuesday, March 19*

** What:** The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (Foundation) and the Harris County Public Library will officially reveal the first George & Barbara Bush Family Place at the Barbara Bush Branch Library on Tuesday, March 19 at 10 a.m.

This George & Barbara Bush Family Place is the first of eight to open in the Houston area, and the commitment expands upon the library system’s efforts to implement Family Place Libraries™ across the city. Last summer, the Foundation announced a $200,000 donation to the Harris County Public Library in tribute to former First Lady Barbara Bush. The funds, provided in partnership with Phillips 66, were earmarked to transform areas within eight county libraries into community centers for literacy by creating robust early childhood spaces for families to play and stimulate learning based on a national model, called Family Place Libraries™.

This gift implements former First Lady Barbara Bush’s vision of literacy for all by making libraries a focal point in communities across our city.

** Who:** Commissioner Jack Cagle, Harris County Precinct 4
Neil Bush, Co-Chair, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
Dr. Julie Baker Finck, President, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
Edward Melton, Director, Harris County Public Library
Clara Maynard, Manager, Barbara Bush Branch Library
Claudia Kreisle, Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement, Phillips 66

** When:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019
10 – 11 a.m.

** Where:** Barbara Bush Branch Library
6817 Cypresswood Drive
Spring, TX

** Media Contacts:**
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About the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation is a charitable organization formed by Neil and Maria Bush to carry forth First Lady Barbara Bush’s legacy in the literacy cause and to focus deeply on breaking the intergenerational cycle of low literacy in the Bush family’s hometown. Founded on Mrs. Bush’s belief, “If you help a person to read, then their opportunities in life will be endless,” the Barbara Bush Foundation’s mission is to improve lives through the power of literacy – the ability to read, write, speak clearly, and think critically.

The Foundation serves as the champion across the Greater Houston area for the literacy cause, raising awareness for the value and importance of literacy, mobilizing volunteers and resources to build critical capacity of community-based literacy providers, and investing in local literacy programs and services that support children and families to develop strong literacy skills for success. For more information, visit www.bushhoustonliteracy.org or follow us on Facebook at @bushhoustonlit, Twitter @bushhoustonlit, Instagram @bushhoustonlit.

About Harris County Public Library
Harris County Public Library (HCPL) provides information and resources to enrich lives and strengthen communities through innovative services within and beyond our walls. HCPL has always been committed to providing whole-person literacy services to all Harris County residents starting in infancy. HCPL’s 26 community-focused branch libraries have a combined annual circulation of over 10 million items. Each branch prides itself on providing excellent customer service, a wide-ranging collection and cutting-edge information technology. HCPL programs and services are designed to inspire lifelong learning. They range from high-tech maker labs with 3D printers and laser cutters to mobile library service vehicles, from citizenship and language classes to Gulf Coast Reads, an annual celebration of shared reading. HCPL is your pathway to knowledge. Visit www.hcpl.net for more information, and follow us on Facebook @harriscountypl, Twitter @harriscountypl, or Instagram @HarrisCountyPL.

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